

Words Are CAtegorical™

Slide and Slurp, Scratch and Burp

More about Verbs

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable



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Slide and Slurp, Scratch and Burp



More about Verbs



To Isabella
—B.P.C.

Verb: A word
that shows
action or being





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Verbs **are** words like

sneak and **sniff**,



sneeze and **seize**

and **wheeze** and **whiff**.



Planting carrots,
getting traction,

Verbs **give** sentences
their action.



You might be **exploring**
the Alps or the Amazon,
maybe **restoring**
the chair that your grandma's on.



knitting or hitting
or roping or biting—

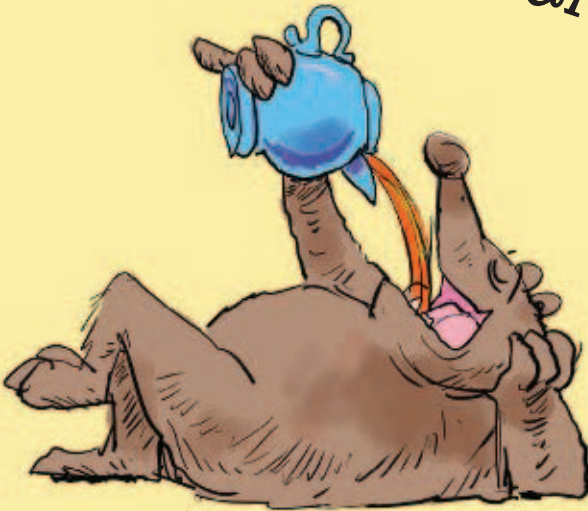
Verbs can make sentences
very exciting.



They **tell** us of horses



that **nuzzle** and **nip**,



of bears as
they **guzzle**

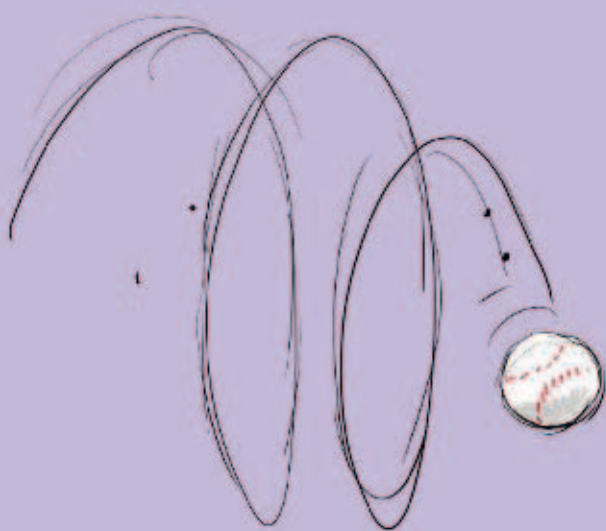
and birds as they **sip**.



They tell us of scooters
both **swerving**
and **stopping**,



throws that **are curving**
or **sliding** or **dropping**.



So **Wrap** a package, **tie** a knot,

clap your hands, or **cry** a lot.



Triumph, tremble,



trot, and trample,



you'll **use** a Verb
for each example!

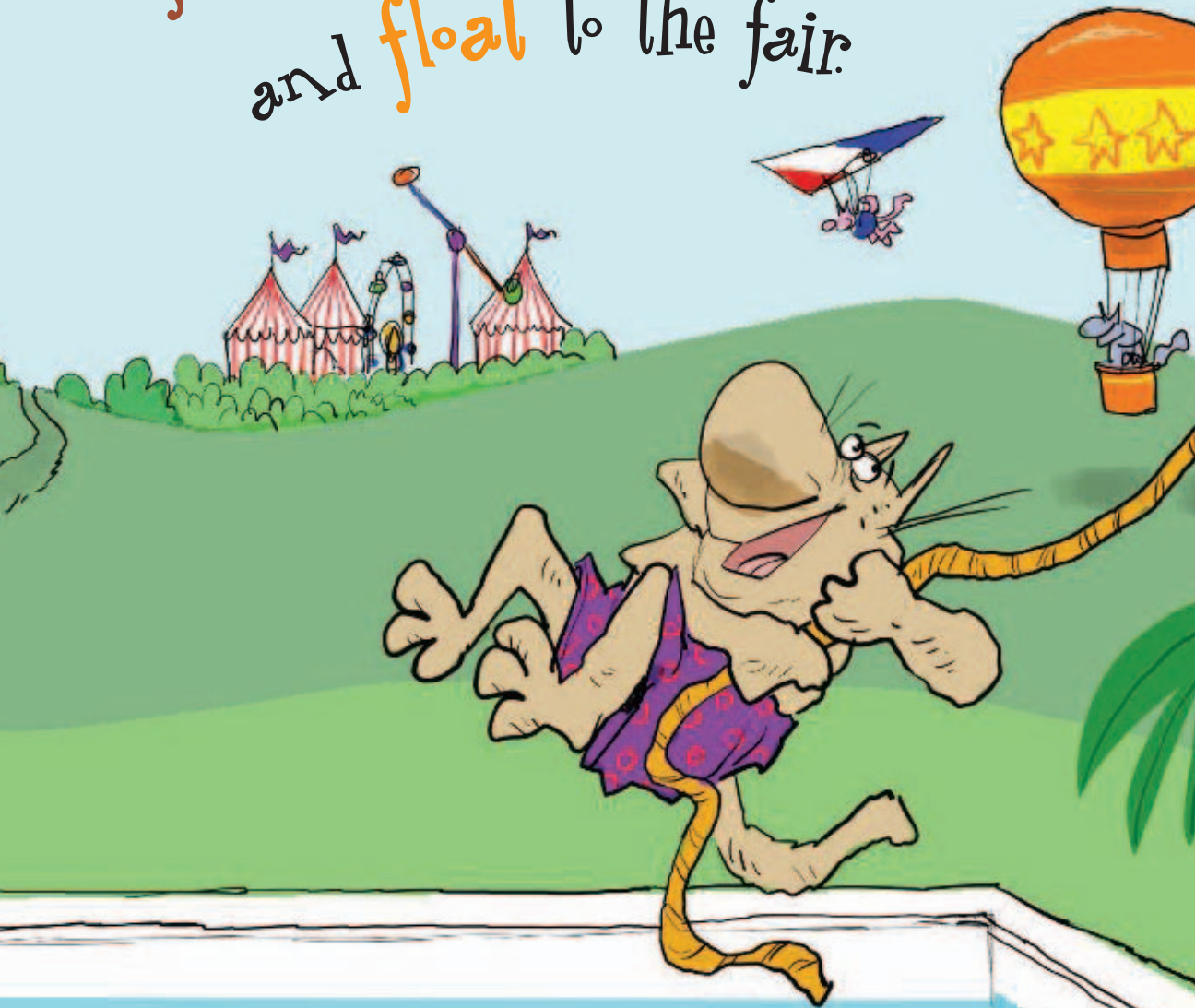
Fly to the flower shop,
dash to the dance,



swing by the swimming pool,
frolic in France.

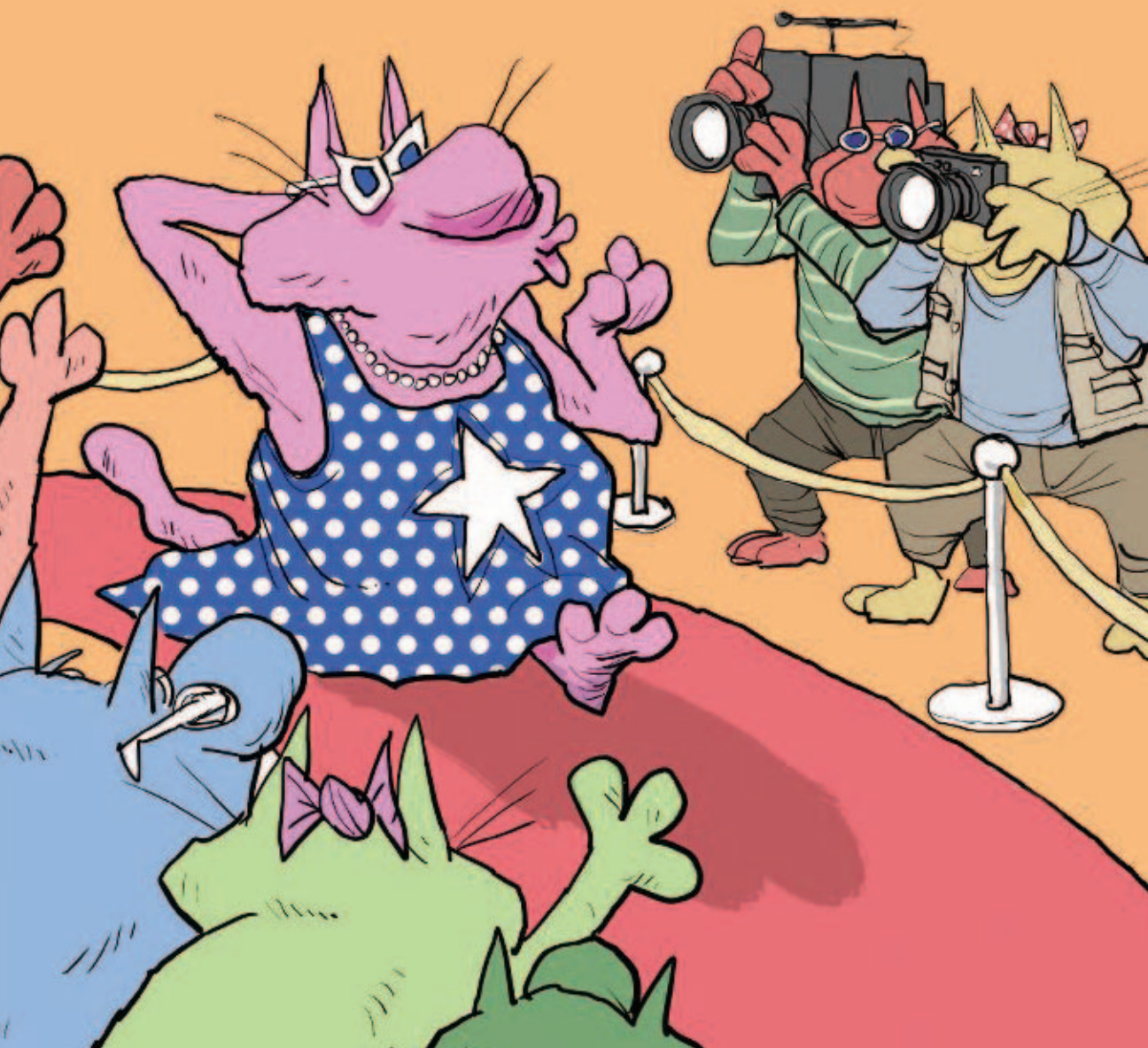


Soar to the circus
and float to the fair.



Without Verbs,
your sentence
can't go anywhere.

Each sentence **has** a subject—
it's kind of like the star.



It's what the whole thing's
all about:



Dave's dish,
Mom's look,
Todd's car.

Subjects always **need** a Verb—

it's what **makes** fishes **swim**



and lanterns **light**
and writers **write**
and clippers **cut** and **trim**.



Some Verbs aren't the action kind—
They “link” instead of “do.”



connecting sentence parts, as in,

“Your dog appears quite blue.”

These linking Verbs
connect a Subject
to a Word or phrase



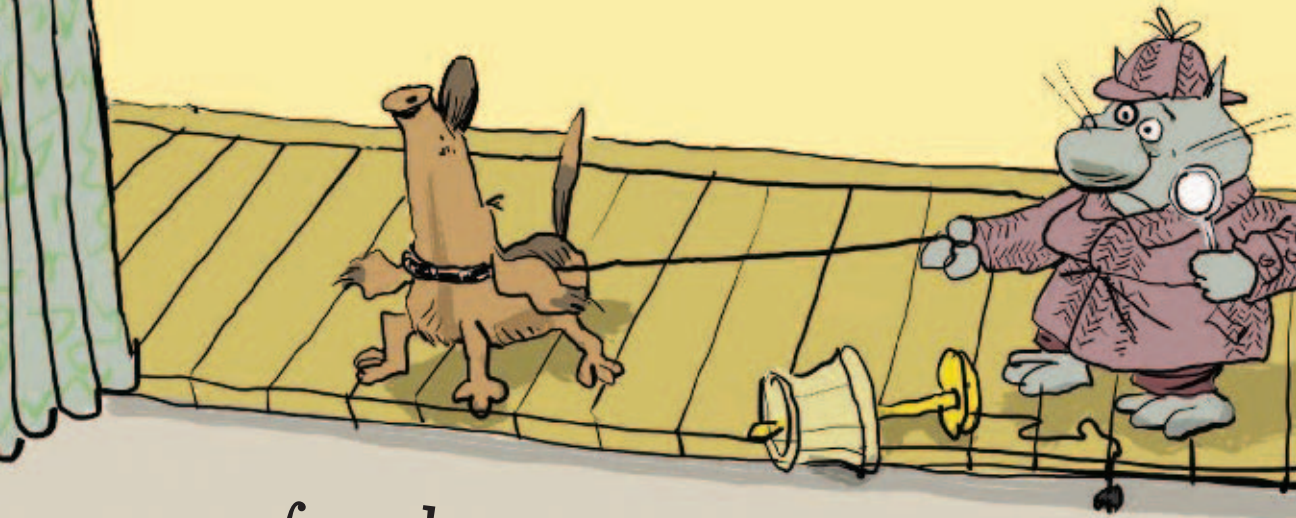
that's **called** a
Subject complement.
It's done in lots of ways:

It **became** ridiculous.



That strudel sure **smells** great.

The crime **remains** a mystery.



This play **Seems** second rate.

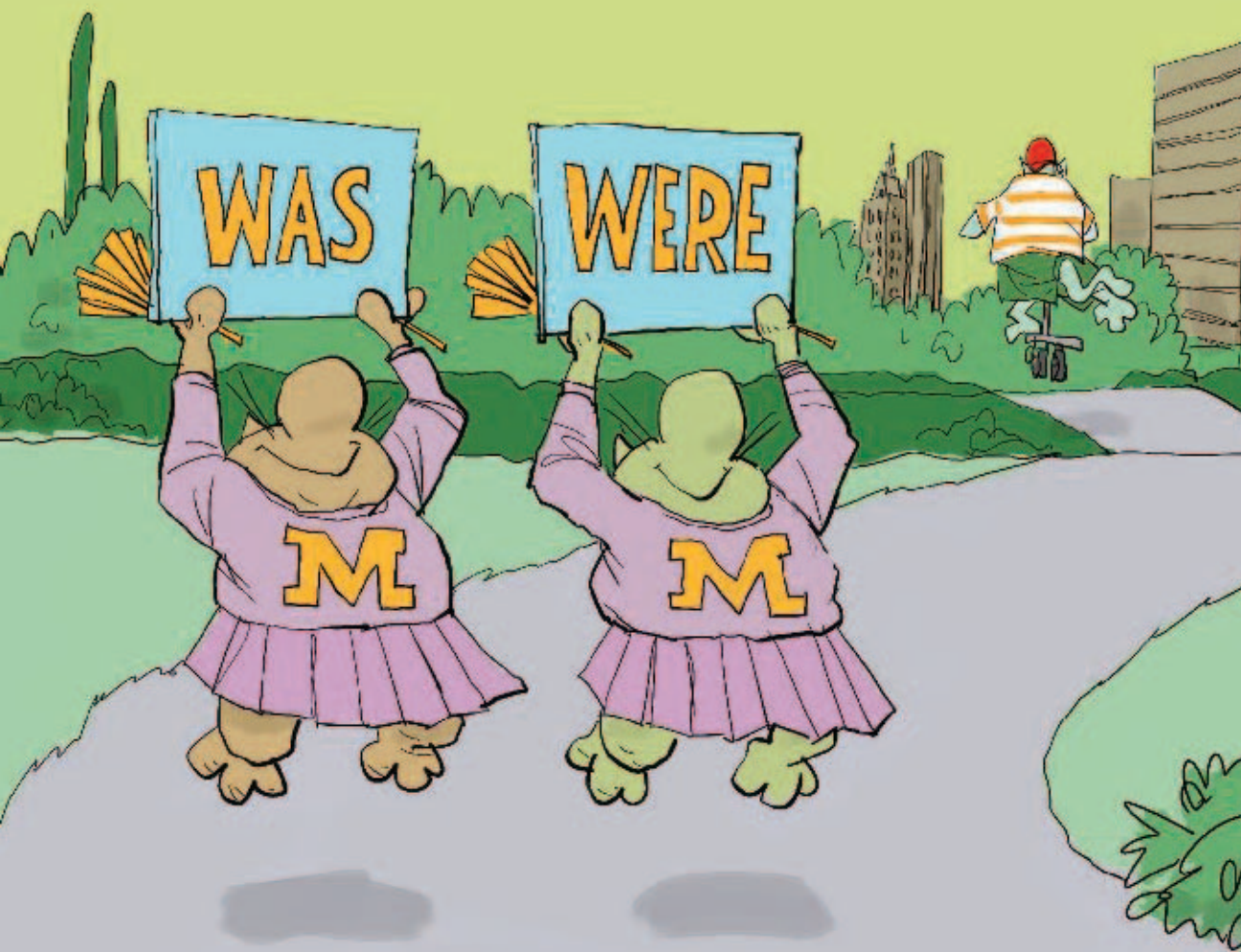


The forms of "be"
are linking Verbs,

like, "Are your names Michelle?"

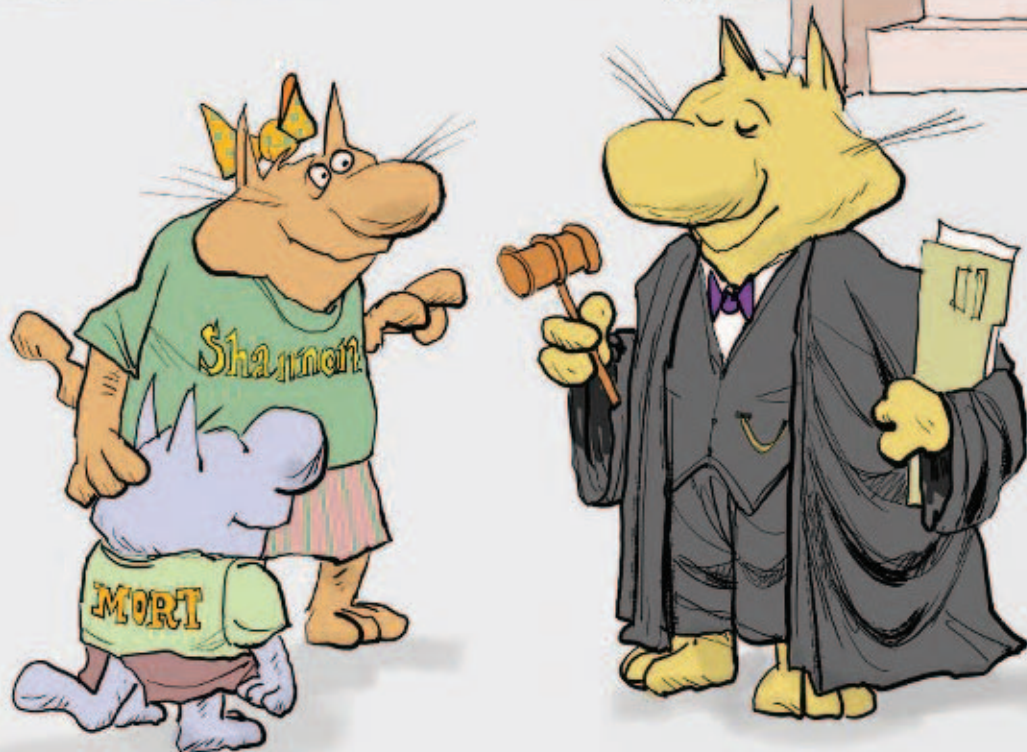


Were and Was
work this way, too—
they're forms of "be" as well.



I **am** Shannon.
He **is** Mort.

Were you the one
who **was** in court?



There **are** times
a form of "**be**"
is all that's **needed**, Verbally.



Whether you **slide**

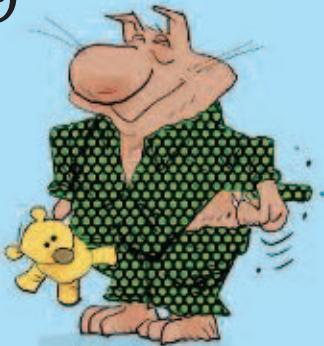
or you **slip**



or you **slurp**

if you should **scream**

or you **scratch**



or you **burp**

if you're **making** a fraction
or **writing** a blurb,



because there **is** action,
you **know** it's a Verb.

so if you should **gloat**



or you **glisten**



or **listen,**



Say to the chef,
“**Take** that out and **put** this in.”

whether you **pounce**



or **pronounce**



or **perturb**,



I'm here to **announce**
that you're **using** a Verb!

So, what **is** a Verb?



Do you know?



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